

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. James Parton's life of "Voltaire" will be issued about May 15.

Charles Scribner's Sons are putting forward the last of their edition of George Brander's sketch of "Beaconsfield," which had a good sale when it was first issued, some time ago.

Professor Goldwin Smith has reprinted, for private circulation only, his various essays, reviews and letters contributed to different periodicals. Everything bearing on politics has been excluded.

The first prizes in Lothrop & Co.'s competition for book cover designs and magazine drawings were awarded, for book-cover designs, to Miss L. B. Humphrey, of Boston, and Miss Rosina Emmett, of New-York; for black and white drawings, to Mr. F. H. Langren, of New-York, who also took the second prize.

Mr. W. H. Harrison, of London, has announced the British Museum for literature about the Yorkshire Silby, as Mother Shipton is sometimes called. He has published the result of his investigations in a little book which ought to give great relief to people who fear her prophecy about the end of the world may come true. Mr. Harrison proves that most of the prophecies ascribed to Mother Shipton did not originate with her.

Dodd, Mead & Co. have published a cheap edition of Dr. Lubke's "Outlines of the History of Art," edited by Clarence Cook. It is printed from the plates of the larger edition which they put forth about three years ago, and really differs from that sumptuous work only in the size of the margins, the style of the binding, and perhaps the quality of the paper. Still the "cheap" copies are elegant and tasteful, and they contain, of course, all the illustrations.

A book has just appeared in London which may possibly do something to protect householders against the scandalous propensity to adulterate food. Its title is "How to Detect the Adulterations of Food." The writer shows that the simplest articles of the poor man's diet, like oatmeal, no less than the luxuries of the rich, are shamefully mixed with indigestible and worthless substances. Such a book is a painful comment on the capacity of human nature for meanness.

The History of "Frederick the Great and the Seven Years' War," by F. W. Longman, of Balliol College, Oxford, in the Epochs of Modern History Series of Charles Scribner's Sons, is admirably adapted to interest schoolboys, and older heads will find it pleasant reading. The maps are numerous and well arranged to tell the story of Prussia's wonderful growth. Mr. Longman gives a list of more elaborate books on the same subject, placing Carlyle at the head, and calling his Frederick "a noble work which is appreciated most by those who know it best."

The next novel in the Leisure Hour Series of Henry Holt & Co. will be "Matrimony," by W. E. Norris, the author of "Mademoiselle de Mersac." It is a story that has been warmly commended in England, and is said to present both the good and the unhappy side of the subject. The principal female characters are an unprincipled adventuress and a coquette without a conscience, who are offset by one admirable woman. Mr. Norris may be called a disciple of Thackeray, and the *Saturday Review* says that the author of "Pendennis" has never been approached so nearly, both in matter and quality, as by the author of "Matrimony."

Professor Monck's sketch of "Sir William Hamilton," in the "English Philosophers" Series (G. P. Putnam's Sons), is mainly a careful and thorough statement of Hamilton's philosophical views. His life was eventful. He tried the practice of the law after leaving Oxford in 1811, but met with little success, though his biographer says, with a naive effort to apologize for him, that "there seems no reason to doubt that if he had devoted his attention to his profession he would have earned a respectable livelihood." He lived with his mother and a cousin whom he married after the death of his mother. His appearance as an author dates from shortly after his marriage, and we are told that Lady Hamilton not only acted as a literary goad, but also as a drudge, for she served her husband continually as amanuensis.

"Knights of To-day" is not an inappropriate title for a knight of Mr. Charles Barnard's stories which occupy a field of his own, and may be described as science applied to the solution of affairs of the heart. Nearly all the stories, which, with one exception, made their first appearance in periodicals, have something to do with Morse's telegraphic alphabet. It is therefore an apt conceit of Mr. Barnard to adorn the cover with a picture of Cupid transmitting a heart by telegraph, in the same way that boys send a paper messenger along a kite string to the skies. The new story, called "Santuary Measure," is one of the best, and shows a New-York professor and his numerous family, including a marriageable daughter, afloat inside of Sandy Hook on a flatboat which is made to furnish a cheap and healthy summer home. It is easy to see a preference for the story of "Kate," and also to discover that Mr. Barnard has not the faculty of delineating character. His persons are thin types of classes instead of individuals.

A LETTER OF CARLYLE'S.

Prize Harper's Weekly.

We speak elsewhere of the return of feeling about Carlyle. But in illustration of the essential tenderness of his nature, the dewy hardness that needed and the rough rocks that strewed the path— and it is the first time that we have done so— we add a extract from an American lady acknowledging the gift of *The Harcourt Memorial Biographies*, which Mr. Froude says that Carlyle had somehow opened his eyes to the true character of the man. It is written with a blue pencil in a fine, tremulous hand, with some abbreviations:

"CHELSEA 10 March 1870.

DEAR MADAM: I received your gentle kind and beautiful letter, and in obedience to so touching a command, sent me a night or moonlight, having no pen to write with, I read those lines you marked for me, with several of the others, and intend to read the whole before I finish. Many thanks to you for those volumes and that note.

T. CARLYLE."

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